

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-06-02

Issued at Yakutat, Monday,
May 6, 2002

Effective 12:01 A.M. Thursday,
Date: May 16, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Saturday,
November 30, 2002 unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order decreases the bag and possession limit for lingcod in the Icy Bay Subdistrict and the East Yakutat Section from two fish per day, four in possession, to one fish per day, two in possession for all anglers. It also establishes a 32-inch minimum and 42-inch maximum size limit for lingcod harvested by guided and nonresident anglers in these areas. Finally, it requires that all lingcod caught by guided and nonresident anglers in these areas must be landed only by hand or with a landing net.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022 (193) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 47.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(1) 5 AAC 47.022 WATER	SEASON AND BAG LIMIT						SPECIAL PROVISIONS
	King Salmon	Other Salmon	Trout/ Steelhead	Dolly Varden	Halibut/ Lingcod	Other Fish/Shell fish	
(193) All SALT WATERS described in 5 AAC 28.105 (3), and (4) (D).	1A	1D	1L, 1R	1I	3J, 4K ^{1, 2}	1S, 1T	¹ The bag and possession limit for lingcod is 1 fish per day and 2 fish in possession. ² The minimum size limit for lingcod harvested by guided and nonresident anglers is 32 inches and the maximum size limit is 42 inches in length. Lingcod harvested by guided and nonresident anglers must be landed only by hand or with a landing net.

JUSTIFICATION:

In February 2000, the Alaska Board of Fisheries established a guideline harvest level (GHL) management approach for sport and commercial fisheries in Southeast Alaska (5 AAC 28.160 (e)), reduced allowable harvests by setting the GHL lower than recent harvest levels, and allocated the GHL among sport and commercial fisheries (5 AAC 28.165). The Board also delegated the Department extended authority to modify regulations to achieve lingcod allocations to the sport fishery (5 AAC 47.060).

Based on recent (1999-2001) harvest trends in the Yakutat area sport fishery, the total weight of lingcod harvested in 2002 under existing sport fishing regulations is expected to exceed allocations to the sport fishery for the Icy Bay Subdistrict and East Yakutat section. These two management areas are in the vicinity of Yakutat and are described in 5 AAC 28.165. To stay within allocations set by the Board, sport harvests in these areas must be reduced. Based on angler harvest rate and lingcod size composition estimates provided by creel survey programs in Yakutat, a 1-fish bag and 2-fish possession limit for all anglers and a 32-inch minimum and 42-inch maximum size limit for guided and non-resident anglers are necessary to ensure allocations for these management areas are not exceeded.

Landing requirements prohibiting the use of gaff hooks will substantially reduce incidental mortality associated with using gaffs to land undersized lingcod.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.